Use of Bailadila's high grade iron ore lumps of fines

876. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bailadila's high grade iron ore lumps and fines are of any use in the country's steel mills; and

(b) if so, the total production of such ore and the percentage thereof being used in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of a total production of 91.66 lakh tonnes of Iron Ore during 1991-92 from the Bailadila sector, around 36% was supplied to the domestic iron and steel industry.

Effect of export of Iron Ore Lumps/ Fines

877. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's best iron ore lumps and fines are being exported to earn foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether such export has resulted in the shortage of usable steel; and

(c) whether the cost of the export has effected country's industries and economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Iron ore is exported from various sectors in the country such as Goa-Reddi, Bellary-Hospet, Bailadila and Barajamada. These ores are of varying quality and include some very high grade ore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Involvement of private sector in exploration of mineral resources

878. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to involve the private sector in the exploration of mineral resources, particularly small deposits;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) what is the response expected from the private sector in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) (MMR&D) Act, 1957 provides for exploration of minerals in private sector except for certain minerals like basemetals, gold, strategic and atomic minerals etc., which are presently reserved for Public sector only. However, Government is considering to amend the (MMR&D) Act, 1957 to permit exploration/exploitation of some minerals presently reserved for the public sector by the private sector also.

(c) With the proposed amendments to (MMR&D) Act, 1957, private sector is likely to play a more active role in the field of exploration and exploitation of minerals.

Exploration of rich minerals in Arunachal Pradesh

879. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 19th October, 1992 under the caption "Arunachal's Potential not exploited" to the effect that the natural resources are available in plenty in Arunachal Pradesh which can be utilised for the development of the country; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to tap the rich minerals and oil available in Arunachal Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) As a result of survey and exploration carried out so far by Geological Survey of India (GSI), a reserve of 90.23 million tonnes of coal containing high volatite, high sulphur and low ash in Namchik—Namphuk in Tirap and Changlong district, 140 million tonnes of limestone, in Tidding belt of Lohit district has been estimated.

(b) Exploitation of mineral deposits depends upon techno economic feasibility of